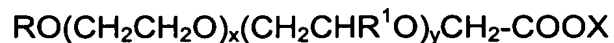


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A drilling fluid containing an aqueous phase and an oil phase and an ether carboxylic acid of the formula:



wherein, R is a saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched alkyl or alkenyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms, x is a number from 1 to 20 and y is 0 or a number from 1 to 20, provided that the sum of x and y is at least 1 and at most 25, R¹ is an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms and X comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, monovalent anions and polyvalent anions.